

T O

THE HONOURABLE, THE KNIGHTS, CITIZENS AND BURGESSES OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT:

The Humble Petition of *Aldermen, Common-Council-men, Subsidy-men*, and other Inhabitants
of the Citie of L O N D O N, and the Suburbs thereof.

S H E W E T H;



H A T they doe with all humble thankfulnesse acknowledge that great labour and care, which this honourable Assembly hath undergone now for the space of above one whole yeare, endeavoring the reformation and removal of those many pressures & grievances in Church and Common-wealth; And do humbly present that grateful acceptance & high esteem, which not only the Petitioners, but also all well affected to the honour of his Majesty and prosperity of this Kingdome have, of these your great and unwearied endeavors, which although they (by reason of the Popish Lords and Bishops Voting in the House of Peeres, and other impediments as they humbly conceive) have not hitherto produced those happy effects you aimed at; Yet, to the Petitioners great comfort, divers of those pressures are already removed: as *Arbitrary Courts, Ship-money, Monopolies*, and other illegall Impositions, wherewith they were burthened, and further hopes given by the happy Act of this PARLIAMENTS continuance.

That (notwithstanding all this) the Papists and their adherents, whose malice ceaseth not, have by sundry secret and desperate plots, attempted the ruine and destruction of this State and Kingdome, and however some of them have hitherto by Gods providence, and your prudence, been discovered and become abortive: Yet the sad effects of others of them, are not only felt, and much more feared in this Realme of *England*, but also have of late broken out into open Rebellion in *Ireland*, where most barbarous, savage, cruell, and inhumane actions are practised towards our Brethren by Nation and Religion, whose lamentable and deplored condition the Petitioners much pittie and lament, and have just cause to feare, that as already there hath been much Christian blood spilt, so in short time, if speedy helpe be not sent, not only the many great Debts there owing to divers of the Petitioners, and others of this Kingdome, will be wholly lost, but (which is farre more) the very name of the *English* and *Protestant* Religion there, will be rooted out, which those Rebels (the Foundation of whose Religion is written in letters of blood) do only oppose.

And for that divers of the Petitioners receive daily information from all parts of this Kingdome, of the bold insolent carriage, and threatening speeches of the Papists in this Realm, arising (as the Petitioners humbly conceive) not only from the prevailing of the Rebels in *Ireland*, but also from the want of such secure and speedy course against Papists here, as the present condition of this Kingdome requireth, and this honourable Assembly hath earnestly endeavoured.

From which grounds, the Petitioners cannot omit to represent unto you, the great terrors, feares, and distractions, that they lie under, of a suddaine surprize by their bloody hands; By meanes whereof, the Trading of this City and Kingdome is much more of late decayed, then it hath been for divers yeares past, no man following his Trade cheerfully, while the lives of himsele and Family, and the publique safety of the Kingdome are in danger; and while he knoweth not how soon they may feele the like cruelty and inhumanity from the Papists, and their adherents, as these in *Ireland* have done, which if ever it shall happen, this honourable Assembly must expect to have a deep share in their malice and cruelty, against whom they have already by themselves and their Abettors endeavoured, to raise a disrespect in the hearts of the people, to divide between the Kings Majesty and his *Parliament*, and seditiously to misconstrue the Citizens dutifull and loyall entertainment of his Majesty, to be a dissenting of this honourable Assembly, the least thought whereof, the Petitioners doe utterly detest and abhorre.

To the end therefore, that the destructive plots of the Papists and their adherents may be defeated, the grounds of their hopes and insolencies removed, considerable Forces with all expedition sent to subdue those abominable and bloody Rebels in *Ireland*; This City Kingdome, (for prevention of the like mischiefs here, and securing the peace thereof) put into a posture of defence, the Petitioners freed from their feares, encouraged in their Trades, and in due time receive such just Answers to their former Petitions, as shall seem best to your great wisdomes.

It is humbly prayed, that you will vouchsafe to be a meanes to the Kings Majesty and the House of Peeres, that life may be speedily given to your good endeavours by their concurrence with you in the punishing of Delinquents, and redressing the pressures and grievances in Church and Common-wealth (amongst which the abuses crept into the ancient government of this City, they humbly desire may in due time be taken into consideration.) And for the better effecting hereof, that the Popish Lords and Bishops may be removed out of the House of Peeres, as was desired in the presence of divers of this honourable Assembly, by the representative body of this City in the *Guild-hall*, when 50000*li.* was freely lent to raise Forces for *Ireland*, the greatest part wherof was speedily brought in by the Petitioners.

And the Petitioners who well know their own safeties, are wrapt up in yours, shall not faile to put up daily Prayers to Almighty God for your good successe, and to maintaine and defend, to the utmost hazard of their lives and estates (according to their late Protestation) the Kings Majesty, and high Court of Parliament, against all wicked Counsellors, and malignant opposers, who endeavour, either by secret plot or open force, to prejudice the one or the other, or to make division between his Majesty and the Parliament, whom God and the Laws of this Land, have united in so neare a Relation.

A true relation of the manner how it was delivered.

This Petition was subscribed with above 20000 hands of Aldermen, Common-Counsell men, Merchants, and others of great ranck and quality, two hundred wherof did ride in Coaches, (the 11. Decem. 1641.) to deliver the same. The House of Commons (after some mediation) admitted their Persons and Petition, which Petition was presented by Mr. *Fookes*, Merchant, who related to the Honourable Assembly, that he could have brought them as many persons as there were hands to the Petition, but that he judged it not fit to come thither in a tumultuous manner; declaring (I knewe) how they met with some obstructions (in their gathering of hands) by ill affected persons. And when he had thus done speaking, they were commanded to withdraw: In the Interim, the Petition was read in the House, and then they were called in againe: they being come in, the Honourable Assembly certified unto them that their Petition was very lovingly and thankfully accepted of with reality of affections, promising them that they would take the several branches of their Petition into Consideration giving them order (like-wise) to present the Names of such ill affected Persons, as did hinder or discouragethem in seeking to redresse their grievances in so lawfull a way, and a strict order should be taken with them.